



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



DIANA M. BONTÁ, R.N., Dr. P.H.
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

DATE: December 2, 2004

TO: Sickle Cell Education and Counseling Programs

FROM: Kathleen Velazquez, M.P.H., Chief
Newborn Screening Section

SUBJECT: Application for Sickle Cell Program Approval
January 2005 -December 2006

California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Subchapter 9, Heritable Diseases requires that sickle cell education and counseling programs, regardless of whether their funding is private or public, to apply for and obtain written approval from the Department of Health Services. Such approval shall be contingent upon compliance with all sections of the above mentioned regulations. A Sickle Cell Education and Counseling Program is defined as, “an education and counseling program in which the disease orientation is in whole or in major part, sickle cell disease” (Section 6500s).

Enclosed you will find the following:

1. Application for State Approval as a Sickle Cell Education and Counseling Program
2. Copy of the California Code of Regulations, Subchapter 9, Heritable Diseases Sections 6500-6508
3. Attachment A: a copy of the Continuing Education log for certified sickle cell counselors. The requirement for continuing education hours for state certified sickle cell counselors in California has been revised. **As of January 2004 Sickle Cell Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 15 continuing education hours every two years to keep their state certification current.** This requirement can include attendance at workshops or other state-approved meetings (e.g., NIH's National Sickle Cell Programs annual conference, Sickle Cell Disease Association of America's annual meeting, sickle cell-related hospital grand rounds), and online courses and video presentations available through the National Sickle Cell Center website provided by the Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. <http://www.scinfo.org/prodvideo.htm>. **Other educational options must have prior approval by the Genetic Disease Branch.**
4. Attachment B: Satellite Clinics

If your agency provides sickle cell counseling services as defined above please complete the enclosed application and return it by December 30, 2004 to:

Department of Health Services
Genetic Disease Branch
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Rm. F175
Richmond CA 94804
Attn: Karen Whitney, MS

Approval will be based upon the program's demonstrated ability to meet the requirements of the enclosed regulations. The term of the approval for this application cycle is from the approval date through December 31, 2006 unless the program fails to maintain the State requirements. Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Karen Whitney at the above address or by calling (510) 412-1502.

The Genetic Disease Branch GeneHELP Resource Center provides, free of charge, State approved sickle cell educational materials to agencies in California providing sickle cell education and counseling services. If you would like to learn more about these services or to request an order form please call Carole Klein, MPH at (510) 412-1481. We encourage all programs in California providing sickle cell education and counseling to use these approved materials.

Enclosures

cc: George C. Cunningham, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
Genetic Disease Branch

Karen Whitney, MS
Newborn Screening Section